

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling the behavior of an application when storing data using a logical volume manager, comprising:
 - creating a logical volume;
 - setting a new device type for the logical volume, wherein the new device type is added to a metadata within the logical volume manager; and
 - adding a new device with the new device type to a kernel space.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the logical volume includes supplying the logical volume manager with a new device type for the logical volume.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - using the new device type to indicate to the application that the application may perform a particular behavior defined by the new device type.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to determine a location to begin writing data in a database.

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the location to begin writing data in the database includes block zero of the logical volume control block.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to enable a new feature within the application.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to reduce a currently supported feature set within the application.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to prevent older versions of the application from using the logical volume.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to test the application's expected behavior on a different volume manager.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the new device type set for the logical volume is non-changeable for the life of the logical volume.

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

11. A system for controlling the behavior of an application when storing data using a logical volume manager, comprising:

- a logical volume;
- a new device type set for the logical volume; and
- an application, wherein the new device type set for the logical volume is used to indicate to the application that the application may perform a particular behavior defined by the new device type.

12. A data processing system for controlling the behavior of an application when storing data using a logical volume manager, comprising:

- creating means for creating a logical volume;
- setting means for setting a new device type for the logical volume, wherein the setting step includes adding the new device type to a metadata within the logical volume manager; and
- adding means for adding a new device with the new device type to a kernel space.

13. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the creating means supplies the logical volume manager with a new device type for the logical volume.

14. The data processing system of claim 12, further comprising:

- using means for using the new device type to indicate to the application that the application may

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

perform a particular behavior defined by the new device type.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to determine a location to begin writing data in a database.

16. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the location to begin writing data in the database includes block zero of the logical volume control block.

17. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to enable a new feature within the application.

18. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to reduce a currently supported feature set within the application.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to prevent older versions of the application from using the logical volume.

20. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

includes allowing the application to test the application's expected behavior on a different volume manager.

21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for controlling the behavior of an application when storing data using a logical volume manager, comprising:

- first instructions for creating a logical volume;
- second instructions for setting a new device type for the logical volume, wherein the setting step includes adding the new device type to a metadata within the logical volume manager; and

- third instructions for adding a new device with the new device type to a kernel space.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the first instructions include sub-instructions for supplying the logical volume manager with a new device type for the logical volume.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

- fourth instructions for using the new device type to indicate to the application that the application may perform a particular behavior defined by the new device type.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type

Docket No. AUS920030642US1

includes allowing the application to determine a location to begin writing data in a database.

25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the location to begin writing data in the database includes block zero of the logical volume control block.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to enable a new feature within the application.

27. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to reduce a currently supported feature set within the application.

28. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to prevent older versions of the application from using the logical volume.

29. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the particular behavior defined by the new device type includes allowing the application to test the application's expected behavior on a different volume manager.